

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the May 8, 2006 Office Action, Applicants elect Group II, claims 9-16 and 20-22, with traverse.

The distance metric formulas of claims 1 and 17 are related in that the formula of claim 17 is a particular case of that of claim 1. As pointed out at page 2, line 20 of the specification, the formula of claim 17 is a special case when the data to be analyzed is 2- or 3-dimensional. Again, the specification points out at page 3, lines 6-7, that the claim 17 metric is merely a different description of the claim 1 metric when applied to low-dimensional data. Therefore, restriction is improper and the requirement for restriction should be withdrawn.

No fee is believed due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required with this paper or to credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0337. If an extension of time is required in connection with this paper, please consider this a Petition therefor and charge any fees required to Deposit Account No. 50-0337.

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Respectfully submitted,



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